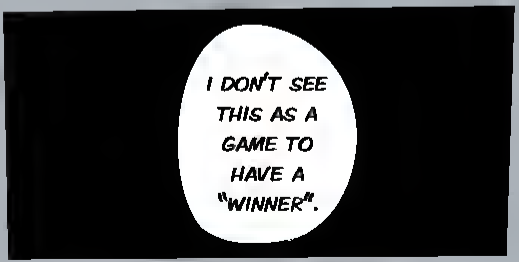
catharsis

By Ahniki

YOU CALL IT "WINNING".

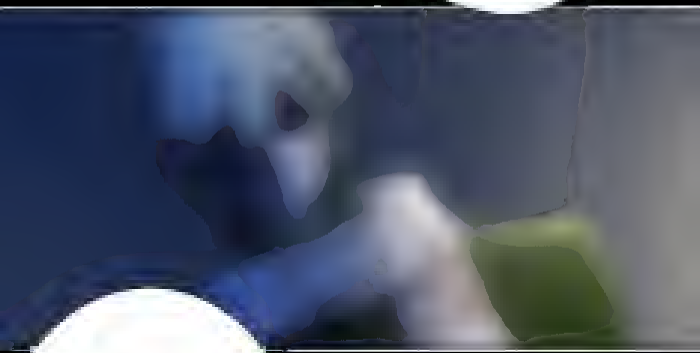

I DON'T SEE THIS AS A GAME TO HAVE A "WINNER".

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT WINNING.
I JUST WANT IT TO STOP. THIS IS JUST ABOUT MY OUTSIDE LOOKS... I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING.

LITERALLY, I'VE DONE NOTHING TO THEM!

AND THAT'S EXACTLY YOUR BIG MISTAKE.

It's about getting out on top of it all. That's winning.

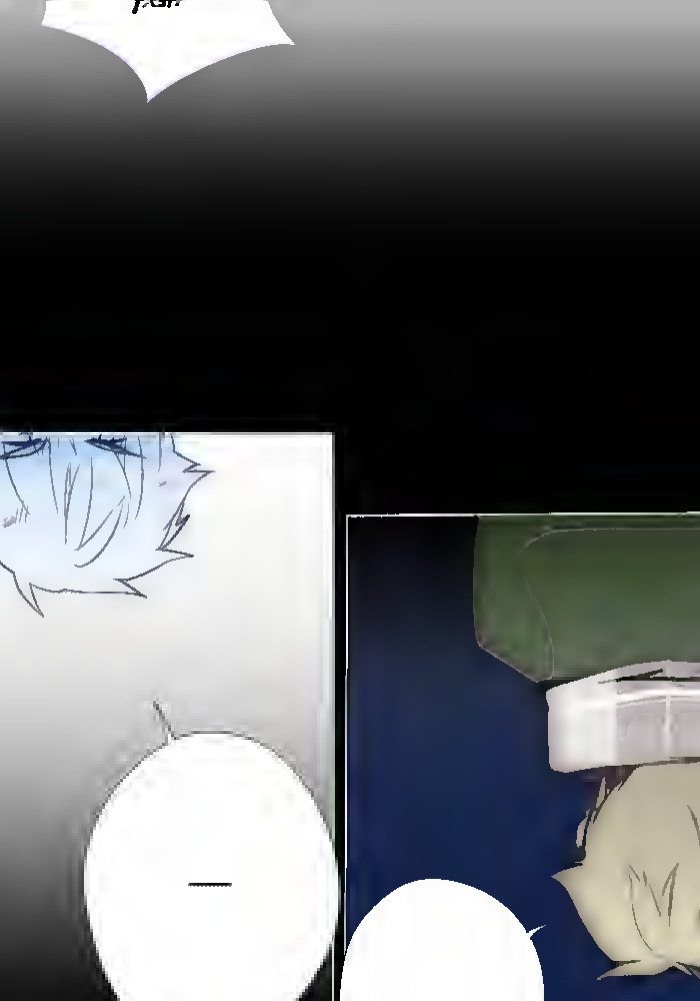


There's nothing wrong that you've done that made you deserve any of this treatment.

Waiting for them to get tired of hurting you or suddenly turn nice all of a sudden, isn't a solution.

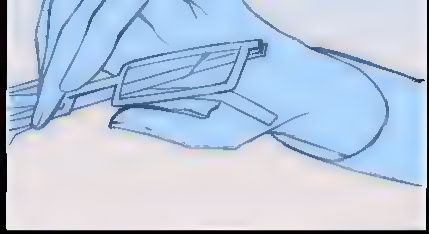
I...
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT ELSE TO DO THEN.

—
GO MAKE 1 FRIEND.
HUH? THAT'S NOT AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS.
DID I STUTTER?



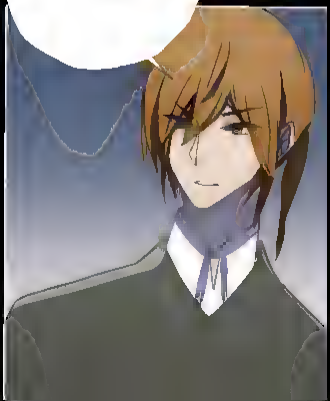
HEY!
ARE YOU OK!
!!

WE CAME AS SOON AS WE HEARD.



HERE. THESE MUST BE YOURS. I PICKED THEM UP ALONG THE WAY OVER

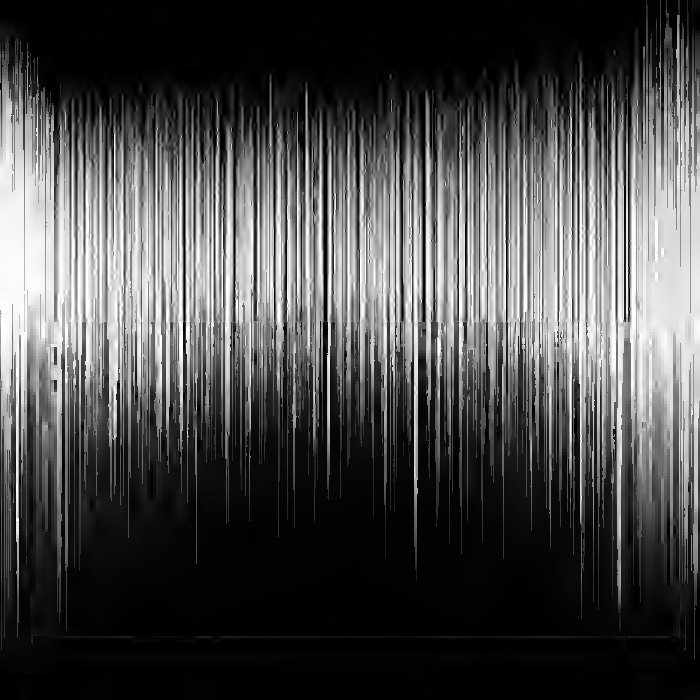
CAN YOU STAND? YOU LOOK BADLY HURT.



YES.
I'M OK.
IT'S ONLY DIRT AND SCRATCHES.

I WOULD'VE BEEN WORSE IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT GU--
HUH? HE DISAPPEARED SO QUICKLY.

?
NOTHING.



This incident reached the principal, and my parents were inevitably notified.

I ended up moving away again as result. I never really figured out the identity of the one that saved me.

His words stuck to me from that day on. I looked up to him and wanted the strength that he had.

I believed that maybe I could try to achieve that too.

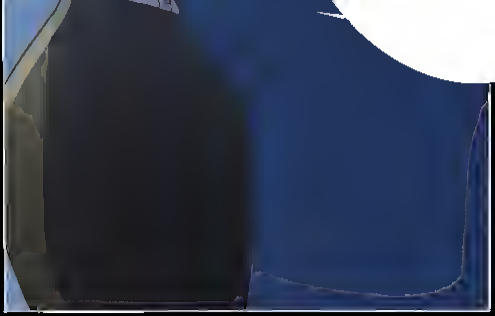
MEANWHILE, SHORTLY AFTER JOHAN WAS ESCORTED OUT...

I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU WERE THE ONE TO INITIATE THAT INTERVENTION.
IT'S UNLIKE YOU TO DO SOMETHING ON THE SIDE OF OUR MAIN MISSION.
I'M TOUCHED, REALLY.

—

WELL, IF YOU WERE GOING TO DO IT, YOU WERE TAKING TOO LONG.

AND WHAT IF I WASN'T?



Whether or not we do something about it, we are still partly responsible for whatever outcome arises for that guy.

If I saw and did nothing, whatever he turns into would be my fault too. (our fault to be exact)

BESIDES, HARVEY. YOU KNOW VERY WELL HOW I FEEL ABOUT THINGS LIKE THIS IN PARTICULAR.